

***“The Shield of Faith:
Part I”***

Ephesians 6:10-20

July 5, 2009

Two more points about the shoes:

1. Not all Christians are gifted in the same way and therefore not all Christians are called to spread the gospel in just the same way.
2. Even though every Christian is called to strap on their shoes and be ready to spread the gospel of peace in the world, there are seasons of life when a warrior needs to withdraw from the frontlines for a time to heal or rest or resupply.

The Order of the Armor:

1. The belt of truth: we're a people of truth.
2. The breastplate of righteousness: we're covered in the forgiveness and righteousness of Christ.
3. The shoes of readiness: we're to be eager to engage with our Father in spreading the gospel of peace.
4. The shield of faith: the first thing a soldier needs in the heat of battle is faith!

On the Shield & the Darts

1. The shield was simply square, hand-held, and made of various sorts of metal. But the important thing to note is that, though it is defensive, it is not passive—it must be wielded.
2. The word for “darts” here simply means “projectiles” but when combined with the word “flaming” it refers to the hand-tossed arrows that Roman soldiers carried in their shield. The important thing to note here is that these darts are hurled, not from a distance, but up-close and personal.

The Assertion of Eph 6:16b

“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.”

Several Specific Flaming Darts

1. The flaming dart of lust.

1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

Several Specific Flaming Darts

1. The flaming dart of lust.
2. The flaming dart of doubt.
3. The flaming dart of fear.
4. The flaming dart of neglect.

Hebrews 10:26-27

“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.”